

Today as you assemble to exchange ideas and assess your progress over the past year, I hope you will find new inspiration and new ways to bring security and significance to the life of Maryland's aged. I wish you all possible speed and success in bringing the community to our elderly and our elderly into the community.

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### WELCOMING REMARKS TO REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' REGIONAL PLATFORM HEARINGS, FRIENDSHIP

May 16, 1968

In the interest of time may I welcome and introduce the members of the Republican Governors' Task Force to Maryland. I also welcome our guests and wish to express special gratitude for the time and interest of our witnesses.

These regional platform hearings emanated from a proposal to the Republican Governors' Association by Governor Shafer. Our objective is to develop platform recommendations based on knowledge and executive experience. Today the majority of America's elected governors are Republicans, and as governors we represent the only Republicans currently entrusted with high level executive responsibility.

The executive experience is singular in that it is the focal point which coordinates the necessary administrative and legislative action to implement policy. With all due respect, I admit a Democrat — President Harry Truman — best summed up the essence of executive responsibility when he said "the buck stops here."

Republican Governors alone can claim this monopoly on the total approach and the total responsibility for problem-solving. In addition, we take a great deal of pride in the creative and imaginative, the daring and different solutions to old and new problems devised by many of our Republican Governors. Success as well as experience should give credence to our views.

This is the last of the regional hearings that have covered all the major issues confronting our nation. Our next step will be to transmit the information gathered by the task force to the policy committee of the Republican Governors' Association and to the individual Republican Governors for consideration prior to our meeting in Tulsa next month. It is our hope that at this meeting genuine consensus